



Annual Report

OF

J. H. WILKINSON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

County Borough of Dudley,

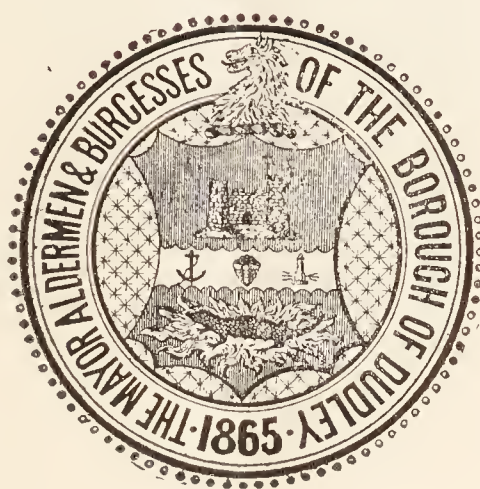
FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897.



DUDLEY :

E. BLOCKSIDE, PRINTER AND LITHOGRAPHER, 20, STONE STREET.



Annual Report

OF

J. H. WILKINSON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

County Borough of Dudley,


FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897.



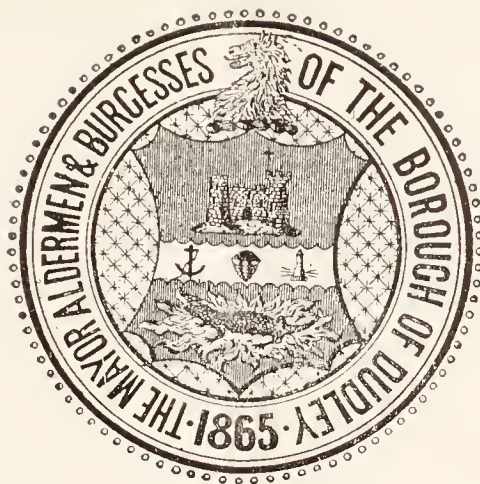
DUDLEY :

E. BLOCKSIDE, PRINTER AND LITHOGRAPHER, 20, STONE STREET.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29170928>



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. H. WILKINSON, Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee of the
Dudley Town Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1897.

The total number of Deaths registered during the year has been 895. 470 were males, 425 were females.

The Death Rate per thousand deducting 38 not belonging to Dudley Parish is 17·87 if calculated on the estimated population in 1897 (47,955) ; calculated from the Census Return of 1891 it is 18·73.

The Births registered during the year have been 1,735. Males numbered 879, females 856.

The Births exceed the Deaths by 840. The Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population is 36·01 ; calculated from the last Census Return the Birth Rate is 37·93.

The total number of Deaths at the various age periods is :—

				DEATHS.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	286
Between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	106
" 5 " 15 "	...	...	...	43
" 15 " 25 "	...	...	...	41
" 25 " 65 "	..	..	..	260
Above 65 years	...	...	...	159
Total				895

The number of Deaths in each Ward under and above 5 years of age, is as follows :—

WARD.	TOTAL.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
St. Thomas	142	72	70
Castle	127	46	81
St. Edmund	41	16	25
St. James	91	53	38
St. John	102	42	60
Netherton	257	120	137
Woodside	85	37	48
Guest Hospital	50	2	48
	895	388	507

The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases under and above 5 years of age are :—

	TOTAL.	Under 5 years of age.	5 years and upwards.
Scarlatina	12	6	6
Measles	2	2	0
Diphtheria	4	2	2
Croup	12	10	2
Enteric Fever	8	1	7
Continued Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	1
Erysipelas	2	0	2
Whooping Cough	13	10	3
Diarrhœa	54	50	4
Influenza	5	1	4



The following Tabular Statements will shew the Number of Deaths in each Ward, the Diseases from which Deaths have occurred, and whether under or above 5 years of age.

WARDS.	Enteric Fever.		Scarlatina.		Measles.		Diphtheria		Diarrhoea.		Whooping Cough.		Croup.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.		Influenza.	
	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above
ST. THOMAS'S ...	1	3	1	4	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CASTLE ...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ST. EDMUND'S ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ST. JAMES'S ...	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
ST. JOHN'S ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
NETHERTON ...	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	14	1	7	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
WOODSIDE ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
GUEST HOSPITAL ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	7	5	7	2	0	2	2	48	6	10	3	10	2	0	1	0	2	1	4
TOTALS ...	8		12		2		4		54		13		12		1		2		5	

WARDS.	Rheu- matism.	Phthisis.		Bronchitis.		Heart Disease.		Convul- sions.		Premature Births.		Injuries.		Inquests.	Various other Diseases.	
		under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above	under	above		under	above
ST. THOMAS'S ...	0 1	2 5	5 13	4 14	0 5	0 7	14 1	3 0	0 0	5	19 32					
CASTLE ...	0 0	2 11	4 14	0 5	4 2	0 0	4 2	0 0	0 0	2	18 47					
ST. EDMUND'S ...	0 0	1 4	0 4	0 3	5 0	3 0	5 0	3 0	0 1	3	2 13					
ST. JAMES'S ...	0 1	1 3	9 6	0 4	6 0	7 0	6 0	7 0	0 1	1	11 10					
ST. JOHN'S ...	0 0	2 4	3 7	0 10	7 0	10 0	7 0	10 0	1 2	2	10 24					
NETHERTON ...	0 0	0 10	15 27	0 7	13 2	16 0	13 2	16 0	1 3	7	51 65					
WOODSIDE ...	0 0	2 4	4 10	0 3	6 0	5 0	6 0	5 0	0 2	3	11 17					
GUEST HOSPITAL ...	0 0	0 0	1 1	0 4	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 19	28	1 17					
	0 2	10 41	41 82	0 43	55 5	44 0	4 28	51	123 225							
TOTALS ...	2	51	123	43	60	44	32	51	348							

The number of Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases has been 113 as compared with 170 last year, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 2·3 per thousand of the estimated population, a rate which compares very favourably with that of surrounding districts or larger towns. The diminished number of Zymotic Deaths this year is chiefly in Enteric Fever, Scarlatina, and Measles ; only two fatal cases of Measles have occurred, as compared with 43 in 1896, while the Deaths from Enteric Fever and Scarlatina have been 8 and 12 respectively ; last year the numbers were 15 and 22. The mortality from Diphtheria and Croup is almost exactly the same as in the previous year. There has been an increase in the number of fatal cases of Diarrhœa, 54 Deaths being attributed to this cause, the number last year was 36 ; 48 of the 54 Deaths from Diarrhœa this year were under 5 years of age, and the mortality was greatest in Netherton and St. Thomas's Wards. Only 1 Death has been certified as due to Puerperal Fever, in the previous year there were 5 Deaths from this disease.

In the Non-Zymotic class a notable feature is the increased number of Deaths from Phthisis, there being 51 Deaths from this cause, last year the number was 33 ; there does not appear to be much difference in mortality from this disease in the different Wards, if we consider the population of each. The number of Deaths from Bronchitis is 123, last year it was 189, the much smaller number of deaths from this cause is probably to be attributed to the mild autumn and winter. There has been a marked increase in the number of Premature Births for the year, 44 Deaths being attributed to Prematurity, in 1896 the number was 28.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

During the last three months of the year I have carefully inspected many of the Factories and Workshops and have found the general sanitary condition to be good, several of the newer factories are admirable in construction, the greatest care having been taken to prevent injurious effects to the workers.

BAKEHOUSES.

I have visited the whole of the Bakehouses in the Borough, and with three exceptions, found them to be in a sanitary state ; in the three unsatisfactory ones the water supply is bad in one case, and there are closets within a yard of the Bakehouse in the other cases ; notices have been served to remedy these defects.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

These appear to be in fair sanitary condition.

CANAL BOATS.

The number of Boats inspected during the year was 152, all these were found complying with the Acts.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF VARIOUS NUISANCES WHICH HAVE BEEN ABATED:

Imperfect Drainage	...	...	166
Filthy Condition of Privies	...	...	79
Dilapidated Privies and Ashpits	...	...	313
Dangerous Pavements	...	...	23
Accumulation of Manure	...	...	22
Insanitary Urinals	...	...	5
Dangerous Open Wells	...	...	8
Accumulation of Rubbish	...	...	6
Defective Water Closets	...	...	6
Swine kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	10
Stagnant Water	...	...	22
Dirty Outbuildings (wash-houses)	...	...	13
Dilapidated Houses	...	...	7
Insufficient Privy Accommodation	...	...	8
Keeping Pigeons, Ducks, &c., so as to be a nuisance			8
Privies under Work-rooms	...	...	2
Offensive Wash-tubs	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	10
Dirty Soft Water Cisterns	...	...	2
Dirty Bake-houses	...	...	5
Houses disinfected and limewashed after Infectious Diseases	...	...	55
Beds and Bedding disinfected at Hospital		...	22

SAMPLES ANALYSED BY THE BOROUGH ANALYST

Under the Food and Drugs Act, during the year 1897 :

5 samples of Condensed Milk		
15	„	Fresh Milk (one fined 50/- and costs)
8	„	Butter
2	„	Ground Ginger
2	„	Pepper
1	„	Lard
2	„	Arrowroot

2	samples of Gin	
5	„ Whiskey	
2	„ Brandy	
2	„ Demerara Sugar	
2	„ Tapioca	
1	„ Confectionery	
2	„ Glycerine	
2	„ Castor Oil	
1	„ Nitrous Ether	
1	„ Cocoa	
1	„ Bicarbonate of Soda	
1	„ Mustard	
1	„ Coffee	
2	„ Olive Oil	
2	„ Bread	
2	„ Magnesia	
3	„ Camphorated Oil	
6	„ Paregoric Elixir (one fined £1 and costs under Food and Drugs Act, others £5 under the Pharmacy Act.	

The number of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed in the Borough during the year has been 7,722.

Dudley and Kate's Hill	...	...	4401
Netherton	...	...	2330
Woodside	...	...	991
		Total	7,722

The total number is considerably less than last year, and there have been some complaints of the work not being done, but a better system of working and management has now been arranged, and it is hoped there will not be any further ground for dissatisfaction.

During the year 158 Houses have been newly connected to the Main Sewers, 108 additional Houses have been supplied with South Staffordshire Water, and notices have been deposited with the Public Works Committee for the erection of 74 new Houses.

VACCINATION RETURN.

Total number of Births during the year - 1,735.

Successfully Vaccinated	...	...	1315
Insusceptible of Vaccination	...	...	10
Had Small Pox	...	...	0
Dead (Unvaccinated)	...	...	165
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	...	52
Removal to Places Unknown	...	...	2
Not Vaccinated	...	...	*191
Total			1,735

* Of this number some of the children are NOT THREE MONTHS OLD, and are therefore not at present compelled to be Vaccinated.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION.

The most pressing sanitary requirement at the present time is the need of better Housing accommodation for the poorest class of inhabitants, people who are unable to pay a weekly rental greater than 1/6 to 2/6 or 3/-, and who at present occupy the wretched tenements in narrow courts and alleys which are deficient in light and air, with unpaved yards, defective drainage, and dilapidated sanitary conveniences ; this class is not a very numerous one comparatively speaking, but it is impossible to erect new houses at such low rentals. I believe that if one or two blocks of Industrial Dwellings which could be let in tenements of two or three rooms, were built in the poorest quarters of the town under the supervision of the Sanitary Committee, and some of the worst courts and dwelling-houses by a gradual process demolished, a much needed sanitary reform would be effected ; one such block might be erected as an experiment, upon land belonging to the Corporation ; such undertakings in other towns have been a success financially ; the sanitary conditions in such dwellings can be easily controlled.

Increased housing accommodation is also needed for working people who are able to pay a weekly rental of 3/6 to 4/6.

There are at present a considerable number of houses in Courts and "back" houses which are tenantless and falling to decay, apparently abandoned by owners and tenants ; where possible these should be pulled down to make room for new houses, or to give free access to wind and sunlight, great improvement in this respect has been recently effected in Vicar Street by the removal of some old property ; one or two of the worst courts are at present being dealt with by the Sanitary Committee, but the matter is one of considerable difficulty.

The present condition of the Privies and Ashpits in some parts of the Borough is unsatisfactory, owing to a bad state of repair, which allows of filth percolating and polluting surrounding earth ; it is to be regretted that property owners do not give more consideration to their responsibilities in this direction as such a condition of polluted ground is not unattended with danger.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HOWARD WILKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

